

STATEMENT OF JOHN BROWN, IN RE
INVASION OF LOGAN COUNTY BY
MINERS.

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4 IN THE MATTER OF ATTEMPTED INVASION BY --
5 UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA OF LOGAN --
6 AND MINGO COUNTIES IN THE LATTER PART OF --
7 AUGUST AND EARLY PART OF SEPTEMBER, 1921. --
8 -----*

9
10 STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
11 COUNTY OF LOGAN, SS:

12 Personally appeared before me, the undersigned au-
13 thority, John Brown, who, being by me first duly sworn, de-
14 poses as follows:

15 Q State your name.

16 A John Brown.

17 Q How old are you, Mr. Brown?

18 A 42.

19 Q Where were you born and reared?

20 A In Tennessee.

21 Q Where were you living at the time of the march of
22 the United Mine Workers from Marmet on the counties of Logan
23 and Mingo?

24 A I was living at Blair, West Virginia, over here.

25 Q In what county is that?

26 A That is in Logan County.

1 Q What were you doing at Blair at that time? What
2 were you working at?

3 A I didn't have any regular job. I was supposed to
4 be a track man, putting up automatic trap doors.

5 Q In the mine?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q For what company?

8 A Boone County Coal Company.

9 Q Did you belong to the Union?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Do you know the number of the Local, or name of the
12 Local?

13 A I have a card in my pocket, I can show you the name
14 of the Local. 2887.

15 Q United Mine Workers of America Local Union 2887, of
16 Blair, West Virginia?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Were you in good standing at the time of the or-
19 ganization?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Before the armed marchers actually got up into the
22 vicinity of Blair and around there, of course you had in-
23 formation they were coming?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q How long had you had that information?

26 A I believe the first crowd that came in there was

1 between eight and twelve hours.

2 Q You knew eight or twelve hours before they were
3 coming that they were coming, before they did come?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Was that along back in August?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q After that time did the men continue to come up
8 in there?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q So far as you know, were they all United Mine
11 Workers?

12 A I couldn't say whether they was all United Mine
13 Workers. They was all armed men, what you might say all
14 armed men.

15 Q Claimed to be United Mine Workers?

16 A Yes, sir, claimed to be United Mine Workers.

17 Q Now, who were the officers of the Local to which
18 you belonged there?

19 A Fellow by the name of Jim Morson was president.

20 Q Who was Secretary of that Local, Mr. Brown?

21 A Layne Hiden.

22 Q Did you have a treasurer there also?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Do you know his name?

25 A George McGlosko, a Polish man.

26 Q What part did those officers take in aiding or bring-

1 ing about this march, Mr. Brown?

2 A. Well, Mr. Morson stayed on the lower end somewhere
3 or other. I never could find out what place -- between
4 Blair and Charleston, or either in Charleston, and notified
5 the Secretary, Hiden, and old man Charley Covert all the
6 time while it was going on on the lower end -- that is the
7 Vice President of the Local there.

8 Q. The President, then, stayed somewhere on the lower
9 end of the line?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And possibly as far as Charleston?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Kept these other men you have named notified of what
14 was going on?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. When these men received notice from the President
17 of the Local as to what was going on what did they they do?

18 A. When they received word -- the first word they
19 received, I was working that day, but the mines wasn't
20 running -- they hollered for the men to shoulder their arms.

21 Q. Who did that?

22 A. I couldn't say positive who said that. Me and Mr.
23 Altizer, an old gentleman working over there, was working
24 on the outside. He is the father of Burt Altizer, and they
25 hollered and told us to throw our tools down and shoulder
26 arms, that there was bad trouble growing. Then I hearn

1 between fifty and seventy-five shots fired, and looked
2 up in the air and seen an airplane. That was down in Blair
3 and we was just above Blair building a slate dump. One of
4 the men that worked with us run off and got excited.

5 Q. Who was he?

6 A. Ernest Thompson.

7 Q. Do you know where Ernest went to?

8 A. He went into Blair, came around the depot somewhere
9 or other.

10 Q. All right, go right along.

11 A. I would like to start in right at the first start
12 when I come to Blair and brought the possessions I had to
13 Blair. I come to Blair on the third of June. I didn't
14 belong to the Union at that time. I was working at a place
15 in Kentucky where there wasn't a Union. It was Southern
16 Mining Company, at Harlantown, Kentucky. I met up with a
17 young man by the name of Tom Williams when I come to Blair.
18 Tom Axed me -- I had seen Tom when I worked there before --
19 he says, "Where are you going?" I says, "I am headed for
20 Guyan River." He says, "Don't you go at all." "What is
21 the trouble?" He says, "They are fixing to fight over
22 there." I says, "Who is going to fight?" He says, "The
23 miners and scabs on Guyan River is going to fight." I
24 says, "Tom, that has been an old song over here five or
25 six years", and laughed about it. I went into a restaurant
26 there and eat some. When I come out of the restaurant Jim

1 Morson and Tom Williams and this Secretary met me on the
2 railroad. They said, "Where are you going, Brown?" I says,
3 "I am headed for Guyan River". I says, "I am knowed over
4 there pretty well -- hunting work." Morson says, "By God,
5 you aint going", that way. I says, "I don't know, Mister,
6 I always thought West Virginia was a free state", just that
7 way, and laughed. I have met the man, knowed him by being
8 there before the conversation we was talking on. He says,
9 "No, you aint going." I says, "I have got to hunt work some
10 way or other." I says, "I have a large family", I says, "I
11 have to work for them and feed them." He says, "By God,
12 you aint going to Guyan River." He says, "You see that
13 bridge up there?" There is a little bridge comes on the
14 big road. He says, "That is the stopping place for the
15 man going across from here over there." About that time
16 Scotty Browning, mine foreman at No. 12, walked up. I asked
17 Scotty for a job. I says, "How about a job?" Me and him
18 has been acquainted for sometime. He says, "Yes, Brown,
19 I will give you a job." I says, "All right." He says,
20 "When you go to work?" I says, "tonight". I want to work
21 on the night shift. There was six of us.

22 Q Who were the other five, if you know? Can you name
23 any of them? If you can, I would like to have them.

24 A One of them was John -- I can't call the name. I
25 was laying a heavy switch one night in the mine -- they had
26 a large switch, forty pound steel plate -- some of the crew

1 raised up and wanted to know if there was any scab in the
2 crowd.

3 Q Do you know who they were?

4 A That fellow John -- you have his name on this list.
5 He has been in Blair for years and years. I will think of
6 his name, anyhow. I just raised up, I says, "I am not a
7 Union man myself. I will have to fine this." They says,
8 "Yes, you will have to fine; if a man works here he will
9 have to fine", that way. I says, "I guess I can fine as
10 well as the rest of them can." We come on outside and went
11 down to the boarding house, and I went to bed.

12 Q Where were you boarding?

13 A At the company boarding house, at Boone 12.

14 Q Who runs that, woman or man?

15 A A man runs it.

16 Q Do you know his name?

17 A I can't call it. I come right on up and went to bed
18 and got up about eleven o'clock and walked down town and met
19 Scotty at the restaurant where I had met him before. He
20 axed me how I come along. I told him all right. Next night
21 I went to work they called on me to fine the Union.

22 Q Who did?

23 A This fellow John. I says, "John, I will fine." I
24 says like this, "I want some pay. I have sent for my family.
25 There aint no work where I have been. I will fine." He
26 says, "That is all right; I will make the report that way."

1 I says, "Any time you want me to come to the hall and take
2 the obligation I am willing to come. " I am always a
3 little bit late about getting out of a morning. Next meeting
4 night following after that night I met Morson and the old
5 man Charley Covert on the railroad between the depot and
6 boarding house. They both jumped on me to come and jine the
7 miners. I says, "All right, I will be down and jine them
8 ~~next~~ meeting now." The next meeting night was on Tuesday
9 night. That was on the first of the week. I come down to
10 jine, and when I got down there I met lots of K. P's and
11 lots of Moose and lots of Redmen in the hall. They axed me
12 to get up and make a talk.

13 Q You belong to both of them?

14 A Yes, sir. I told them I was glad to have a job of
15 work, to get my family there." I says, "My intention was not
16 stopping here. I was figuring on a different job altogether!"
17 I says, "I am glad you boys are getting along smooth headed",
18 just talking nice, you know. I set back down. Old man
19 Charley Covert got up and opened the ball. He said they
20 was going to march to Matewan or Mingo County, and had axed
21 Mr. Chafin there for a right to way to come with a car, and
22 he would not do it. Well, they took a vote who all would
23 fight.

24 Q Who was the chairman of the local at that time?

25 A Jim Morson.

26 Q About how many were in the hall when this vote was

1 taken?

2 A. There was between forty five and fifty man.

3 Q. Go ahead.

4 A. I noticed about fifteen or twenty raised to their
5 feet to fight there way through to Mingo. That is the way
6 the vote was to be axed in the hall.

7 Q. All that would fight to Mingo?

8 A. Yes, sir. So I didn't raise up. I set still. Just
9 as quick as they set down Morson axed me why I didn't vote.
10 I says, "One thing, I have a feeling for women and children."
11 I says, "Another thing, you can't find it in the Constitution
12 of the Mine Workers you shall shoulder a gun. You are not
13 going according to law." He jumped up and come across the
14 hall and called me a God damned son of a bitch right in the
15 hall. He says, "We aint got no use for you at all." I
16 says, "That is all right." He says, "You come from a scab
17 country up here and jined the Union." I says, "I come from
18 a non-Union field.

19 Q. Where was that?

20 A. Southern Mining Company, Harlantown, Kentucky. He
21 goes to Scotty Browning and worked it up some way to fire
22 me. I didn't have any job in a day or two.

23 Q. Were you fired?

24 A. I was cut off of work from the inside. They claimed
25 they didn't have any more work for me to do. When they
26 claimed they didn't have any more for me to do, I had done

1 wrote the family to come to me. The time they cut me off,
2 about that time the family come. I went to Mr. Fisher, the
3 Superintendent, and told him I would like to have work until
4 I sort of got on my feet, that it cost right smart money to
5 get my family there. He says, "You come and go to work
6 leveling the slate dump." I come on and went to leveling
7 off the slate dump, and worked on the slate dump a few days,
8 and the automatic trap door man come and had to have a man
9 with him, and he took me inside, and the rest of the time
10 I worked with him.

11 Q. Do you know his name?

12 A. Yes, sir, a fellow by the name of Ball -- Middleboro,
13 Kentucky, man. Those three last days the mines run the men
14 would go in and not stay over three or four hours in the
15 mines. They would come out, big confusion in there, tell
16 me and Mr. Altizer -- the last day there was anything at all
17 done at Boone 12 I believe they done ten cars of coal that
18 morning -- me and him built the slate dump on the hill. When
19 I went to the house that night from building the slate dump
20 my wife had been to the store. When I come in she says,
21 "Brown --

22 Q. What is your wife's given name?

23 A. Lucy. She asked me what I was going to do. I says
24 "I aint going to do nothing." I says, "I think we have
25 officers of the law in Logan County to take care of the
26 business if it is going to be a scrap" and just laughed and

1 started to the store, and got down there and I seen men with
2 Winchesters, shot guns and pistols.

3 Q Name any of them you can that you know.

4 A I seen three of the Thompson boys -- three brothers.

5 Q Do you know their names?

6 A No, I don't. There is one called Red. They had
7 Winchesters and big 45 pistols strapped up and down their
8 legs. Some of the boys hollered and asked if I had a gun.
9 I said no, I had a couple good rocks, and just laughed at
10 them. I started back home and met Tom Williams, a man that
11 lives in Stringtown, and fifteen well-armed men on the
12 railroad. They halted me. I stopped. They says, "Brown,
13 where is your gun?" I says, "I haven't got no gun." I have
14 got a gun. It is in Tennessee. I didn't bring it to this
15 country with me. I figured I didn't have no use for it.
16 One of the fellows punched me in the breast with the Win-
17 chester and says, "Aint you a God damned scab from Harlan-
18 town, Kentucky?" I says, "I am from Harlantown, but I belong
19 to this Local." He says, "You get in shape and go back down
20 and fight." I says, "Mister, I absolutely will not do it."
21 He says, "What is your reason for not fighting?" I says,
22 "One reason for not fighting, I consider I have friends on
23 Guyan River." I says, "Another reason, you fellows are
24 going over top of the law, and that is one reason." I
25 looked around and seen a Moose in the crowd and throwed a
26 sign at him I was in distress, I was in danger. He says,

1 "That old man is a one-eyed man, lets not fool with him."
2 They let me loose. I went home and told the wife how badly
3 I was treated. I says, "They will turn around after while.
4 These fellows won't need arms, will be sick and tired of
5 it." At twelve o'clock that night some man knocked on the
6 door. I got up and opened the door.

7 Q Who was it?

8 A. Tom Williams was one of them, same man that called
9 me on the road. He says, "Come out here." I walked out on
10 the porch. I says, "Mr. Williams, I haven't any lantern,
11 and can't see good like I can at your house." I didn't
12 think there was anybody else but him. He says, "Let's go
13 to the gate a minute. The house was fenced up. I stepped
14 out to the gate.

15 Q What was the number of the house?

16 A. I believe 375, if I aint mistaken. I walked out
17 to the gate. When I got out to the gate men raised up all
18 around me with big pistols and throwed them on me. I says,
19 "Boys, don't shoot me. I am blind, can't see good. One com-
20 menced to unbutton his jacket, pulled off a belt with a big
21 gun on it about that long, says, "Put this gun on." I says,
22 "I aint got no use for that. I couldn't hit that air house
23 right below me. I couldn't see to shoot." He says, "Don't
24 change no words at all." They marched me on in front of
25 them, made me guard the depot that night at Blair. They
26 kept me there all night.

1 Q How many were you?

2 A Fifteen that night come to my house, but when I got
3 to the depot there was one man.

4 Q Do you know his name?

5 A Red Thompson. I stayed there until daylight next
6 morning, and got up and says "Here is that gun. I don't
7 know whose it is. I am going home." Red says, "Brown, you
8 will have to show up here about eight o'clock." I says,
9 "All right, I will have to go and get some breakfast. If
10 I don't feel too bad I will be back down."

11 Q They said to guard the depot; what did they say for
12 you to guard, for what?

13 A I was to guard from the depot to the little old
14 footbridge for men coming across from the Guyah side. I
15 went home and eat breakfast about eight o'clock, and went
16 and laid down on the bed -- about time to go back down town.
17 I laid back on the bed. I hadn't been on the bed thirty
18 minutes until Tom Williams come back and says, "They
19 want you at Blair.

20 Q Where is Tom Williams now?

21 A At Black Mountain Coal Company, at Harlantown,
22 Kentucky. When I went down there they give me an old
23 single barreled shot gun.

24 Q Do you know the name of the man that gave it to
25 you? Tell us that.

26 A Charley Yeager, he give me the old shot gun.

1 Q. What did he tell you?

2 A. They told me to go to the bridge and stand, not
3 let anyone across the bridge at all. I says, "That would
4 be pretty hard to do, keep -- a man with an old single
5 barreled shotgun -- keep men from crossing that bridge.
6 From that time on they went to marching into the mountain,
7 in the bottom next to Spruce Valley, and went to marching
8 into the mountains that comes the big road. The first
9 bunch went out --

10 Q. Do you know any of those men that went out?

11 A. I know several.

12 Q. Name any you can that went out with the first bunch.

13 A. Red Thompson's brother went out with the first
14 bunch.

15 Q. Do you know his first name?

16 A. No, I don't. He had a brother went out with the
17 first bunch.

18 Q. Were they all armed?

19 A. Yes. I know lots of men but can't think of their
20 names; anyhow, there was eighty-five went in the first
21 bunch into the mountains.

22 Q. Where did they leave you, at this bridge?

23 A. Right at this bridge at the railroad. They went
24 into the mountains and hadn't been in the mountains over an
25 hour or hour and a half until they sent another bunch into
26 the mountains.

1 Q Did you know any in that bunch?

2 A No. They was Spruce Valley men and Five Block men.
3 The man that led that bunch was a crippled man. His arm
4 was off right here. He was the leader. They hadn't been
5 in the mountains, I guess, over thirty or forty minutes
6 until there was a battle started.

7 Q Where did that battle start?

8 A The battle started, I would say, 250 or 300 yards
9 from the top of the mountain coming this way, back on the
10 left hand side of the hill.

11 Q That is what they call Blair mountain?

12 A Yes. It wasn't but a few minutes until a boy run
13 off the mountain and said they was fighting one another; the
14 hing crowd had fired into the front crowd; they was fight-
15 ing themselves. I says "The best thing to do is to call
16 everybody out of the mountains." I says, You will slip
17 up there one morning fighting those men and you will be
18 fighting Uncle Sam's men. You had better call them out."
19 About that time old man Charley Covert walked up and cussed
20 me out again.

21 Q What did he say?

22 A Called me a God damned black-legged son of a bitch.
23 I says "All right, Mr. Covert", I says, "There is a time
24 to straighten this; sometime you will mourn over this."
25 I says, "I have got to stay here and be killed or take all
26

1 kind of abuse in the world." They got the hind crowd
2 straightened up and brought them back down and sent them
3 some other way, and they made up another bunch of men.

4 Q. How far is that from the school house where they
5 were taking them up? Was there a school house they had
6 headquarters?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. How far is that from the school house?

9 A. From the sub-station to the school house, something
10 like a half mile. There was two bunches of men on the
11 mountain, one on one side, one on the other side. Harry
12 Lloyd was captain of that bunch. He had eighty-five men.
13 He started up and they let him up in the middle of them, and
14 both sides got to firing into the middle side, and they had
15 a pretty rough battle, never did either side understand one
16 another from the way they was shooting. This side over here
17 and this side over here was shooting into the middle boys.
18 About thirty minutes from the time Harry Lloyd left the bot-
19 tom -- I will say forty minutes from the time he left the
20 bridge going up, I says, "That is a pretty nice bunch of men
21 to be all in Logan jail inside of six months from today --
22 I looked up the road walking from the bridge back to the depot
23 and seen Harry Lloyd coming running with his hat in his
24 hand. He run by me and his pants was ripped from here to
25 there (indicating). He run up and said, "All them boys is
26 killed up in the mountain." I says "How come that?" He

1 says, "Don Chafins is on top of the mountain with five hundred
2 armed men, fired into the front of them." I says, "It aint
3 no such damned thing. You men are fighting one another."
4 I says, "You go and call them men back, if they don't own
5 up take me out and hang me on a pole." I says, "You had
6 better stay out of the mountain; if Don Chafins' men don't
7 kill you you are liable to kill one another." From that on
8 the men commenced drifting in there in train loads.

9 Q From down the river?

10 A Yes, sir. They got to putting out picket men, men
11 going in front.

12 Q Did they have any countersign, anything of that
13 kind?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q What was it?

16 A I don't remember the sign only this sign from one
17 guard to another on guard up there. If you were on guard
18 duty and wanted to pass by this guard without disturbing
19 him any way, raise your gun twice, that meant you was to
20 pass. They had a sign in the mountain of raising the gun
21 three times in case of a close battle. I would hear them
22 talk that in case of close battle to raise their gun three
23 times, and the man in distress to shoot the other man
24 away from him. They went to putting out picket men, going
25 in front hunting. They started another bunch of men up the
26 mountain the morning they was putting out the picket men --

1 that is the morning they killed Mr. Gore.

2 Q Who went in that crowd that went up to where he
3 was killed?

4 A A young fellow by the name of Charley Wilson was one
5 of the men on the left hand hollow.

6 Q Where is he from? Do you know where he came from?

7 A He was born and raised at Lenton, Indiana.

8 Q Had he been in this community long?

9 A No, sir, a short time. The old man Wilburn was
10 another one of them.

11 Q Old man J. E. Wilburn?

12 A He is a preacher.

13 Q How many of his boys?

14 A The boys wasn't in the bunch with the old man.

15 A fellow by the name of Tom. I don't know what his name is,
16 but I know where he is working.

17 Q Where is he?

18 A He is between Harlantown, Kentucky, and White Star,
19 working on the section. Now, that was three that went up
20 the hollow right behind Blair store there.

21 Q Was there anybody with them?

22 A Yes, sir, there was a bunch of men right in front
23 of them. The report was that bunch of men got lost that
24 was on this other mountain here. Frank Kitchen and Henry
25 Kitchen and a big negro and another man, I didn't know
26 the other man at all, they takes right up behind Blair

1 commissary, and takes the right hand side, when this bunch
2 of men got up on top got lost, instead of going back the
3 other way they come back the spur this way, and old man
4 Wilburn's boys was leading one bunch of men, piloting this
5 Cabin Creek bunch through there, they got lost and come
6 back out the ridge. The other crowd goes back to the right
7 more, bears into the right. When Mr. Wilburn crawled up
8 he seen Mr. Gore; that is the tale he tells.

9 Q You talked to him, did you?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Tell us what he told you?

12 A He seen Mr. Gore crawling along, twisting along,
13 from what he said, close to the bank, and he said that he
14 knowed him, and Mr. Gore called on him for the password.
15 He says, "No, you hand me the pass word first." He says,
16 "No, you hand it to me first. When he done that Wilburn
17 throwed his gun up three times.

18 Q What did that mean?

19 A That meant for his closest partner to shoot. Wilburn
20 said that he knowed Gore and didn't want to kill him. When
21 he done this Charley Wilson was right by the side of a big
22 large beech tree -- there was a beech tree between Wilson
23 and Gore, and Charley stepped one step back down the hill
24 and shot and killed Gore. When he done that the three men
25 that was on the hill --

26 Q Who were they?

1 A. That was Wilburn and Wilson and a big man they call
2 Tom -- I don't know the other part of his name, but I know
3 where he works at. He is between Marlantown and White
4 Star Coal Company -- When they done that these other four
5 boys, the big negroes in the bunch, was just coming down
6 the other side. Wilburn said he fired a shot at another
7 man, but Wilburn didn't say that he killed another man; but
8 when they come off the mountain Wilburn didn't make any
9 bones in holding it in, anything about it. This young
10 fellow called Charley Wilson had a large pistol with him, a
11 watch and two dollars and forty cents in money. "He says,
12 "By God, I took that off of Gore." He says, "I turned every
13 pocket wrong side out." He says, "There is two more killed"
14 and he says, "Them other fellows was robbed; we took every-
15 thing they had." I turned to a young man, I says, "Mister,
16 I will tell you what I would do." I says, "I know Mr.
17 Gore. Even if I didn't know him, if anybody will go with
18 me to carry him off the mountain I will carry him down here
19 and ship him back to his home." When I done that Wilson hit
20 me right there with a pistol, (Indicating wound on face),
21 called me a God damned black legged son of a bitch. When
22 he done that I seen I couldn't talk. When they come back
23 that night -- Mr. Gore was killed between half past ten and
24 eleven o'clock in the day -- mighty near all of them come
25 in off the mountain that night, I heard Mr. Wilburn's boy --
26 I would know him if I would see him -- set out there and tell

1 Charley Wilson if the old man could make many more raids
2 like he did this morning he would be all right. I was
3 really afraid to say anything. Some fellow setting there
4 said, "How is that?" He says, "He got two hundred and some
5 odd dollars in money, a good pistol, and some more junk, he
6 got off of his man." I turned and walked off. It hurt me
7 as bad to hear of John Gore being killed as if it was one
8 of my brothers.

9 Q You knew John Gore?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Do you know Velasco Carpenter out here in jail?

12 A No, I don't know him.

13 Q Have you seen him?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Do you recognize him as being one of the men?

16 A No, sir.

17 Q Did any of the men come back to old man Browning's
18 store after they killed Gore, or do you know where his store
19 is?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Who did you see there?

22 A When I seen them they was coming down Opperman
23 hollow, right there on the railroad; that is between the
24 railroad and old man Browning's store.

25 Q How many men were there?

26 A There was three men in that bunch come off the

1 mountain, and about twenty or twenty-five minutes, or thirty
2 minutes, Henry Kitchen and Frank Kitchen come off, and
3 those other men.

4 Q How many were with them.

5 A There was four of them -- and reported about the
6 negro being killed on the mountain. That is the negro that
7 went out with them.

8 Q What became of that negro's body?

9 A They brought him off the mountain. He lived until
10 they got him over there to the doctor's office. I went in and
11 looked at the man. He lived about ten minutes after he got
12 in the office.

13 Q Who did they claim killed the negro?

14 A I never did just exactly hear.

15 Q Hear them claim how he got killed?

16 A He was shot and killed.

17 Q Don't know who did that?

18 A It was rumored amongst the men Frank Kitchen killed
19 the negro, but I never did hear anyone say positively Frank
20 killed him.

21 Q What did he kill him for?

22 A Like it was when they killed the poor miner there
23 in Blair.

24 Q Who was that? Wasn't there an Italian among those
25 fellows they killed -- Ralph?

26 A If there was I don't know. There was a big square

1 built fellow with the Kitchen party. This other fellow
2 went with Wilburn. His name is Tom, and he had the smallpox
3 and they show up on his face. I know where he is working.
4 He works around the mines, and he couldn't get no job,
5 and he went there with the crew.

6 Q Do you know where this Italian was from? Was he
7 from Dorothy? Or did you know the Italian.

8 A That was killed?

9 Q No, the Italian we have.

10 A I don't know.

11 Q That miner being killed, who shot him?

12 A A big colored fellow from Horse Creek.

13 Q What did they kill him for?

14 A Well, they don't know whether it was an accident,
15 whether it was thought he was an officer. It was rumored
16 between several of the men that Frank Kitchen -- the big
17 tall Kitchen man, not the one-eyed one -- killed him,
18 ~~through~~ thought he was a man from the other side.

19 Q But about the miner killed in Blair?

20 A He is a Polish man.

21 Q What was he killed for?

22 A He comes to Opperman's store one night. He is deaf,
23 can't hear anything. You have to holler loud at him to get him
24 to hear. He was walking back home, and they hollered for
25 him to stop.
26

1 Q Do you know who hollered?

2 A No, I don't know who was on that night at all. He
3 hollered for him to stop and give the pass word, and the
4 man didn't hear him and he shot and killed him.

5 Q What was the password? Do you know any of the
6 passwords they had?

7 A Well, I would like to be excused, if there would be
8 any excuse for secret order people. They had one password,
9 was "Watch". The first password they give out, "Mingo, we
10 come creeping" -- that was the first give out, and the next
11 one give out was "Watch". That was the Cabin Creek people's
12 password. They had to give the password in Blair if they
13 run together.

14 Q They had that password, of course, when they came
15 to Blair?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q When did you leave there after Gore was killed?

18 A I left there on the 16th day of the month.

19 Q What did you leave for?

20 A I was told by old Charley Covert and this here --
21 another man, I can't think of his name -- they was going to
22 kill me. I says, "Boys, as quick as the trouble winds up
23 I am going to Guyan River. I won't have anything more to
24 do with it." My wife got uneasy. There was somebody around
25 the house three or four nights. She got uneasy, got up one
26 night and opened the door, claimed there was a man standing

1 at the gate with some kind of gun. I told her, "I want to
2 see my father again, I believe I will go home and see if I
3 can find work there, and we will move plumb out of this
4 country. I went home and tried to get work there and
5 couldn't.

6 Q Did you take your family with you?

7 A No, sir, left them there.

8 Q How did you travel when you left?

9 A On a passenger train.

10 Q How did you go?

11 A Ashland, Kentucky, caught the C & O to Winchester, and
12 then to Corbin, from Corbin down home.

13 Q Is your family at home?

14 A No, they are at Blair yet.

15 Q Did you see any of the Kitchens on the road as you
16 went?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Whereabouts did you see them next?

19 A At Harlantown, Kentucky.

20 Q Talk to them?

21 A Yes, sir, talked to them.

22 Q Talk to them about this killing?

23 A Yes, sir. Wait, I didn't see the Kitchens; I seen
24 Wilburn and Wilson and the man they called Big Tom.

25 Q What did they say they were going to do?

26 A They asked me what we was going to do about the

1 trouble. I says, "I don't know what." He axed me how many
2 there was killed. I says, "I don't know how many there was
3 killed." He says "The report come to this Lodge 974."
4 I says, "I guess it is about that way." He says, "Are you
5 looking for work?" I says, "Yes, I am looking for work."
6 He says, "Work is hard to get now." I says, "I am pretty
7 well knowed here. I can get a job." That was in Harlan
8 County, Kentucky. I went around several places and tried to
9 get on and couldn't. I met up with Charley Wilson, with the
10 Southern Mining Company, at a little place called Golden
11 Ash, about a mile and a half out of Harlantown.

12 Q. What did he say about the shooting?

13 A. He told me just about the whole thing like he did
14 at Blair. He says, "I got a dandy gun out of it." I says,
15 "Wilson, I will tell you one thing, in one sense of the
16 word it was bad on both sides --

17 Q. Where did he say he got the gun?

18 A. Off of John Gore.

19 Q. What kind did he say he got?

20 A. 45 Colts Pistol or some kind.

21 Q. Langer?

22 A. Yes, sir; it is a different looking gun from any
23 other I have seen for a long time. I says, "Wilson, you
24 sure killed a good man when you killed John Gore": I says,
25 "More than that, if I would kill a man I would never have
26 his gun after he was dead.

1 Q. What did he say?

2 A. He says, "That is the gun I want to show people in
3 this country, who it was killed him." I says, "I aint got
4 no more to say." I tried to work everywhere on that road.
5 I even went to the high sheriff's office, Harrold. I couldn't
6 get work nowhere at all. I had \$1.40 in money. I was
7 setting in the Harlantown depot. I says, "I am going back
8 to West Virginia and go through to Guyan River. I have got
9 the promise of a job there, and go to work." I made my way
10 through. I borrowed money off of my lodgesto go through on.

11 Q. What did old man Wilburn say he was going to do?
12 Did you see the other Wilburn boy?

13 A. Yes, there was two of them driving mules at Cattles
14 (Cataras) Creek.

15 Q. John, where did you get the money to go back to
16 Tennessee and travel around when you left up there? Where
17 did you get it?

18 A. I borrowed it off of a fellow by the name of Bob
19 Bowman.

20 Q. How much did you get off of him?

21 A. I borrowed twenty-five dollars off of him.

22 Q. Do you know any men you understand were in the crowd
23 where John Gore was killed?

24 A. Three men in one bunch and four in another.

25 Q. Do you know the names of all of them?

26 A. I know the names of Wilburn and Wilson, and I know

1 the man called Tom. That is the three men in the bunch
2 when John was killed. I know the Kitchen boys, two of them.
3 I don't know the big negro's name. He is dead. The other
4 man, I didn't know him.

5 Q Were there other men in the crowd whose names you
6 didn't know?

7 A There was one man in the crowd I didn't know his
8 name.

9 Q The big man was Tom Grimes, was that his name?

10 A No, sir, it aint Tom Grimes. He has got some kind
11 of western name around Blair.

12 Q About breaking into old man Browning's store, give
13 us the names of the men in there.

14 A There was a fellow by the name of Tom Miller from
15 Kayford, on Cabin Creek, he is the only man I knowed posi-
16 tively got anything. Tom got two pair of shoes, three silk
17 dresses, and a dozen shirts, and five silk waists. I taken
18 them away from him myself. I says, "It is a dirty shame to
19 do the poor old man that way." The word he throwed at me,
20 "He is a damned scab and all his boys are scabs." I says,
21 "Mister, there won't be a scab in law when this is settled."
22 I says, "You are having your time; the Logan boys will have
23 their after while." He was going to the postoffice to ex-
24 press it to Kayford to his wife.

25 Q Did you recognize any others?

26 A No. I seen lots of men coming out of there with

1 stuff I didn't know. He had four pairs of shoes and a suit
2 of clothes, and I believe twenty-four shirts. He brought it
3 back.

4 Q John, what were you fellows made to understand about
5 this march, that Keeney and Mooney wanted it carried through?

6 A I will tell you what I think about it, is my opinion
7 about it. I believe they knowed all the time about what it
8 was going to amount to, and didn't want to let any head
9 official else know it. They knowed the moves and turns that
10 was going to be made, but they didn't want the people
11 handling the law to know anything about it.

12 Q You mean Keeney and Mooney knew all about it?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q In other words, putting you in front so as to keep
15 themselves out?

16 A That is it.

17 Q Was it the understanding of the members of the
18 Local that Keeney and Mooney were in favor of this march?
19 You say it was reported three men of the Local were to meet
20 the head officials below there?

21 A Yes.

22 Q That report came in there while preparations were
23 being made to get guns and ammunition?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Do you know whether your Local appointed three men
26 to meet them?

1 A. I couldn't say.

2 Q. What is your understanding?

3 A. My understanding three men left in a car and went
4 to the place.

5 Q. Who did you understand left?

6 A. Charley Covert was one man; that man Hiden was
7 another man, and a young fellow over there, they call him
8 Toney; he is awful bad to stutter -- just a young boy like.
9 He was the other man that went.

10 Q. Those three fellows were, according to your under-
11 standing, appointed by the Local to meet with head officials
12 of the United Mine Workers below there?

13 A. Yes, at Laurel City -- that is where they was to
14 meet.

15 Q. Did you hear the name of any of these head officials
16 used they were to meet?

17 A. No, didn't hear any name called at all in the
18 business; just heard it rumored that the men was talking
19 that they met the head officials of the Union at Laurel
20 City, three men from every Local, whatever they could line
21 up for business.

22 Q. How long before they marched in?

23 A. That was while this bunch of men was down at Marnet.

24 Q. Did you ever hear the matter of buying guns dis-
25 cussed in the Local over there, or by the members of the
26 Union?

1 A. Didn't hear it discussed in the Local, only buying
2 cartridges. Jim Morson bought sixteen hundred dollars of
3 cartridges at one time.

4 Q. How did he pay for these cartridges?

5 A. I don't know.

6 Q. You say he bought sixteen hundred dollars worth?

7 A. Sixteen hundred dollars worth at one time.

8 Q. Do you know where he got them?

9 A. He got them in the time he was away from there.
10 He was either at St. Albans or Charleston one.

11 Q. Do you know where he had them shipped to?

12 A. They was brought into Blair in automobiles.

13 Q. Where is that fellow Morson now?

14 A. I couldn't just exactly tell you. I have heard
15 three different tales about him. I heard that he was at
16 Brown's place on the Harlan County road; then I heard he
17 was at Goldbrick, Tennessee; then I heard that he was in
18 Illinois. I couldn't say positive where he is at.

19 Q. Do you know where he came from when he went over
20 to Blair?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Was there anything ever taken out of the miners'
23 wages in the way of check-offs or any other way to pay for
24 ammunition?

25 A. No; there was an assessment all the time, but we
26 never knowed what it was for unless it was the Mingo men.

1 Q What was the amount of that assessment?

2 A It cost me sixteen dollars to join the Union, and I
3 was assessed three dollars on top of that.

4 Q Was that aside from your dues?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Week or month?

7 A A month.

8 Q Three dollars a month aside from the dues?

9 A No, hold on a minute. I was assessed three dollars,
10 dues and assessment all. The dues was one dollar and
11 assessment was two dollars.

12 Q Total of three?

13 A Yes, total of three dollars.

14 Q You never knew what that was for unless it was in
15 some way to aid this Mingo trouble?

16 A Unless it was to see that the Mingo men was fed,
17 something like that.

18 Q One dollar was dues and two dollars assessment to
19 help outside?

20 A Yes, sir.

21

22

23 Taken, subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day
24 of October, 1921.

25 My commission expires _____.

26

27

28 Notary Public, Logan County, West Va.

29